



The Georgia Family – Friendly Partnership School Awards

2015 Award Application Packet

The Georgia Family – Friendly Partnership School Awards are annual awards that recognize Title I schools for their exceptional commitment to fostering welcoming environments that encourage families to become active partners in improving student achievement and success.

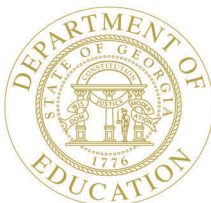
The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) launched the Georgia Family – Friendly Partnership School initiative in the summer of 2010 to assist Title I schools, families and communities in working together to create welcoming environments that lead to increased student achievement. A welcoming environment increases family engagement which, in turn, helps students earn better grades, graduate from high school and enroll in post-secondary education. This award takes the initiative a step further by recognizing Title I schools that have gone above and beyond to create an environment where families and community members feel they belong, and in turn, play an important role in supporting their school’s student success.

Application Deadline

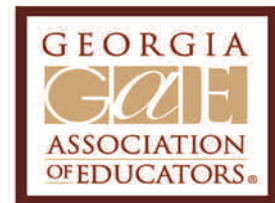
Completed application packets must be received on or before **4:00 p.m.** on

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Learn more at: <http://tinyurl.com/cg5cxa6>



THE RITZ-CARLTON



The following four factors should be considered when assessing a school's welcoming environment:

1. Physical Environment

The physical appearance of the school building and surrounding areas such as the main entrance, halls, parking lots, signage and landscaping.

2. Personal Contact

The visible interactions between school staff and families and/or community members, such as acknowledging parents or guests in the school, friendly greetings from front office staff, or public recognition for parents and community members who volunteer and contribute to school and student success.

3. Communication

The way that the school keeps families and the community informed through sources such as a welcome letter, up-to-date school calendar of events and holidays, a staff directory, announcements on social media Websites or a school map for visitors. Information for parents should be provided in various languages and should be easy to understand.

4. School Practices and Policies

The opportunity for families and community members to provide feedback, actively contribute by serving on committees that address policies and procedures, or participate in parent organizations that are inclusive of the entire school community.

Eligibility

To be considered for the Georgia Family – Friendly Partnership School Award, a school must meet the following requirements:

- The school must be identified as a **schoolwide** Title I school.
- The school must not be designated as a Priority School or Focus School under the Georgia Waiver for ESEA Requirements.
- The school was a not Family-Friendly Partnership School Award Finalist in the previous year.
- The school may not have been a Family-Friendly Partnership School Award recipient within the last five years.

Questions

Direct any inquires about the Georgia Family – Friendly Partnership School Awards to:

Michelle Sandrock
Parent Engagement Program Manager
404-232-1148
msandrock@doe.k12.ga.us

Selection Process

All Title I schools that meet eligibility requirements are invited to apply by submitting a complete application packet according to the application guidelines. A panel of respected educators, parents, and community members from across the state will assess the applications and select up to twenty finalists.

School principals will be notified of their schools' selection in December, and the judges will conduct school site visits between January and April 2015. Site visits are not announced in advance. During the site visits, judges will conduct a surprise walk-through and interview school staff and visitors to assess the school's welcoming environment. Following the school visits, the judges will decide on the 2015 Georgia Family-Friendly Partnership Schools. Up to ten schools may be honored with the award each year. Winners will be notified by formal letter and phone call in either April or May of 2015.

Finalists are selected based on the written application only. Once a school is designated a finalist, the scoring process starts over and winners will be determined solely on the school visit and interview process.

Winners

Schools that are honored with the Georgia Family – Friendly Partnership School Award will be designated as a Family – Friendly School by the Georgia Department of Education for five years from the date the award is announced. In addition to holding this title of distinction, each winning school will also receive:

- A letter of recognition from the State School Superintendent
- A press release from the GaDOE that may be shared with local media
- A banner or plaque recognizing the school's accomplishment
- A *Welcome Mat* to place at the front entrance of the school identifying it as a Family – Friendly Partnership School
- A special recognition in the Georgia Family – Friendly Partnership School Award spotlight publication which will feature stories and promising practices from the finalists and winners
- A special professional learning opportunity provided by The Ritz-Carlton Leadership Center

Timeline

August 2014

2015 Georgia Family – Friendly Partnership School Award Application Packet is Available

November 13, 2014

Deadline (4 p.m.) for Award Application Packet to be Received

December 2014

School Finalists Announced, Principals Notified

January - April 2015

Finalist School Site Visits

April - May 2015

Georgia Family – Friendly Partnership School Award Winners Announced

Finalists

Schools that are named Georgia Family - Friendly Partnership School finalists, but that do not win the award will receive the option for specialized support from the Georgia Association of Educators to further develop the welcoming environments in their schools and to increase their chances of winning the award in the future.

Application Guidelines

The application begins on page six and can be completed in the pdf document. Please read the completion and submission guidelines carefully, as incomplete applications will not be accepted.

1) Complete the application ensuring attention to the following items:

- A) School Information – must be completed and typed on the application where indicated.
- B) School Data – must be completed and typed on the application where indicated. Please note that one percentage for “meets and exceeds” is requested for all grades per test content area. Primary schools should fill out the attendance data and substitute GKIDS scores for CRCT data.
- C) Family – Friendly Partnership School Parent Survey Information – must be completed and typed on the application where indicated. The Family – Friendly Partnership School Parent Survey is available in English and Spanish on the GaDOE’s Website. Please note **this is the only Parent Survey that will be accepted for this section**. Look for the parent survey link on the right hand side of the page at:
<http://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Pages/Georgia-Family-Friendly.aspx>
- D) Short Answer - must answer both questions completely and type responses directly on the application in the space provided. Please limit your answers to the number of words and font specifications listed.
- E) Attachments – must attach a copy of your School Title I Parental Involvement Policy. Please also note that up to five extra points may be awarded if a video/pictures of your school’s welcoming environment is/are submitted. Pictures and video must be submitted online at:
<http://gadoeparentengagement.edublogs.org/family-friendly-school-partnership-award>
- F) Essay – must complete the essay directly on the application in the space provided. Please notate the instructions for font and spacing.

School Data Award Application: Section B	5 points
School Survey Information Award Application: Section C	10 points
Short Answer (1) Award Application: Section D	12 points
Short Answer (2) Award Application: Section D	8 points
Attachments: School Parental Involvement Policy Award Application: Section E	5 points
<i>(*Video/Pictures of School Welcoming Environment: Optional Bonus Points)</i>	<i>5 points*</i>
Essay - National PTA Six Standards for Family – School Partnerships Award Application: Section F	60 points
Total	100 points
<i>(Up to five extra points may be awarded if a video/pictures is/are submitted)</i>	<i>(105 points)</i>

Application Guidelines Continued

- 2) On the last page of the application, the school's principal must sign certifying that:
- A) The information provided in the application is true, accurate, and complete;
 - B) The information provided in the application may be verified any time by the GaDOE (particularly parent survey data); and
 - C) Permission is granted for any parts of the application or attached materials to be shared with persons interested in promoting the Georgia Family – Friendly Partnership School Awards Program or to be used in educational publications from the GaDOE.
- 4) To be eligible for the 2015 Georgia Family – Friendly Partnership School Awards, the completed 2015 application packet, as specified in the application guidelines, must be received on or before 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 13, 2014.

Complete, scan and email one copy of the application to:

Keisha Jeffries
Parent Engagement Communications Specialist
Parent Engagement Program
KJeffries@doe.k12.ga.us
(404) 656-2633

Submissions will only be accepted by email. No faxes or hardcopies please.

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Section B: School Data Continued

To be Completed by High Schools Only

EOCT 9th Grade Lit (%) <i>(Meets and Exceeds total for all grades)</i>	_____ SY 2011 – 2012	_____ SY 2012 - 2013	_____ SY 2013 - 2014
EOCT American Lit (%) <i>(Meets and Exceeds total for all grades)</i>	_____ SY 2011 – 2012	_____ SY 2012 - 2013	_____ SY 2013 - 2014
EOCT Math 1 (%) <i>(Meets and Exceeds total for all grades)</i>	_____ SY 2011 – 2012	_____ SY 2012 - 2013	_____ SY 2013 - 2014
EOCT Math 2 (%) <i>(Meets and Exceeds total for all grades)</i>	_____ SY 2011 – 2012	_____ SY 2012 - 2013	_____ SY 2013 - 2014
EOCT Biology (%) <i>(Meets and Exceeds total for all grades)</i>	_____ SY 2011 – 2012	_____ SY 2012 - 2013	_____ SY 2013 - 2014
EOCT Physical Science (%) <i>(Meets and Exceeds total for all grades)</i>	_____ SY 2011 – 2012	_____ SY 2012 - 2013	_____ SY 2013 - 2014
EOCT US History <i>(Meets and Exceeds total for all grades)</i>	_____ SY 2011 – 2012	_____ SY 2012 - 2013	_____ SY 2013 - 2014
EOCT Economics <i>(Meets and Exceeds total for all grades)</i>	_____ SY 2011 – 2012	_____ SY 2012 - 2013	_____ SY 2013 - 2014
Graduation Rate (%)	_____ SY 2011 – 2012	_____ SY 2012 - 2013	_____ SY 2013 - 2014

2012 - 2013 CCRPI Score: _____

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Section C: Family – Friendly Partnership School Survey

1. How many parent surveys were distributed? _____

2. What was your survey return rate (%)? _____

3. What were the top five positive responses (in ranking order)?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

4. What were the top five negative responses (in ranking order)?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

5. Have you already made progress in improving some of those identified areas? If so how?
(Limited to 100 words in either 10 or 12 point font)

6. If not, what is your plan and timeline to address those identified areas of improvement?
(Limited to 100 words in either 10 or 12 point font)

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Section D: Short Answer

1. Explain one sustainable ongoing practice/partnership that the school uses to increase home-school connections with those families that may be considered hard-to-reach throughout the entire school year. **(Limited to 200 words in either 10 or 12 point font)**

2. In addition to your Family-Friendly Partnership School Parent Survey, what other needs assessments have been conducted over the past two years that provide data regarding your school's family-friendly environment? Please briefly explain how these data were captured (e.g. Title I Parent Survey), what the data revealed, and how your school addressed the information. **(Limited to 200 words in either 10 or 12 point font)**

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Section E: Attachments

Please attach a copy of your School Title I Parent Involvement Policy (required) and upload any video or pictures (at <http://gadoeparentengagement.edublogs.org/family-friendly-school-partnership-award>) to receive up to five bonus points. Then check below to signify that the policy is attached and if video or pictures were submitted.

_____ School Title I Parent Involvement Policy
_____ Videos/Pictures (for bonus points)

Section F: Essay

The Georgia Family – Friendly Partnership School Initiative is built around the National PTA’s Six Standards for Family – School Partnerships.

Standard 1: WELCOMING ALL FAMILIES

Families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class.

Standard 2: COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY

Families and school staff engage in regular, two-way, meaningful communication about student learning.

Standard 3: SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

Families and school staff continuously collaborate to support students’ learning and healthy development both at home and at school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.

Standard 4: SPEAKING UP FOR EVERY CHILD

Families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.

Standard 5: SHARING POWER

Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.

Standard 6: COLLABORATING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services and civic participation.

On the following four pages, use the standard narratives above as well as the initiative's supplemental handouts as a guide to describe what makes your school family – friendly. Make sure your answer includes evidence of implementation in addition to impact data or positive outcomes that have resulted from the standards implementation for each of the six standards. Particular emphasis should be placed on how you are reaching out to those families who are traditionally referred to as hard to reach families. It is also recommended that more focus be placed on describing particular, innovative family engagement programming or strategies where applicable rather than listing all activities that apply to the standard.

Principal Signature and Endorsement:

I hereby certify that the information provided in this application is true, accurate, and complete. I understand that the information provided in this application is subject to being verified at any time by the GaDOE. Furthermore, permission is granted for any parts of the application or attached materials to be shared with persons interested in promoting the Georgia Family – Friendly Partnership School Awards Program or to be used in educational publications from the GaDOE.

Principal’s Name

Principal’s Signature

Date

Georgia Family—Friendly Partnerships School Awards Application

Section F: Essay

Please answer the essay question provided on the previous page, addressing each standard in the space provided. Answers should be single spaced and written in either 10 or 12 point font. Do not use bullet lists of parent engagement activities, provide answers in narrative form. ***Make sure your answer includes evidence of implementation, in addition to impact data or positive outcomes, that has resulted from the implementation of each of the six standards.***

INTRODUCTION

Standard 1: WELCOMING ALL FAMILIES

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Standard 2: COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY

Standard 3: SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS



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Standard 4: SPREAKING UP FOR EVERY CHILD

Standard 5: SHARING POWER

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Standard 6: COLLABORATING WITH THE COMMUNITY

CLOSING

This completes the 2015 Georgia Family - Friendly Partnership School Awards Application.